

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

/136 W

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R 040650Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: PASHTUNISTAN

1. PASHTUNISTAN DAY, AUGUST 31, HAS PASSED QUIETLY BY. IN OUR VIEW THE OCCASION WAS EVEN MORE SUBDUED THAN THE RELATIVELY MUTED PASHTUNISTAN DAY CELEBRATION OF LAST YEAR. FOR WHATEVER REASON, WHAT MIGHT LOGICALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO BE AN OCCASION FOR CACOPHONOUS ANTI-PAKISTAN ORATORY WAS INSTEAD A QUIET AND RELATIVELY PERFUNCTORY EVENT.

2. PRESIDENT DAOUD DID NOT SPEAK ON THE OCCASION OF PASHTUNISTAN DAY. NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY LEADER IN EXILE, AJMAL KHATTAK DID. THE TEXT OF HIS REMARKS WAS CARRIED BY AFGHAN PRESS SEPTEMBER 2, BUT THERE WAS NO PARADE THIS YEAR, AS THERE WAS LAST YEAR. NOR WERE THERE PUBLIC GATHERINGS THIS YEAR, AS THERE WERE LAST YEAR, AT THE JESHYN GROUNDS, THE THE GHAZI STADIUM OR IN ZARNEGAR PARK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE EVENTS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED THIS YEAR, BUT THAT THEY WERE CANCELLED.

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3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE PATTERN OF
GOA RESTRAINT THAT WE HAVE NOTED AS CHARACTERIZING GOA
RESPONSES TO PAKISTAN DURING THE RECENT MONTHS OF INCREASED
TENSION IN PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS DID NOT CHANGE ON AN OCCASION
WHEN, IF ONLY BRIEFLY, IT COULD HAVE WELL HAVE BEEN EXPECTED
TO. IN VIEW OF CLOSE CONTROL BY PRESIDENT DAOUD OVER PUBLIC
EVENTS AND MEDIA, WE BELIEVE DOWNPLAYING OF PASHTUNISTAN DAY
COULD NOT HAVE BEEN INADVERTENT.

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